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ABSTRACT

A profile is presented of the social and economic characteristics of black students, 16 years old and over, enrolled in college or a noncollegiate postsecondary institution, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 1976 Survey of Income and Education. After a reviewing of characteristics of the black population in the United States in the mid-1970s, the characteristics of black college students and students in noncollegiate postsecondary schools (including adult basic education, Comprehensive Employment and Training Act programs, and vocational schools) are discussed, with attention directed to financially dependent and independent students. Postsecondary enrollment is also analyzed in relation to family size and the number of students enrolled per family. Findings include the following: in spring 1976, 1,233,000 blacks were enrolled in college; for the 18-24-year-old group, black high school graduates had lower college enrollment rates than all high school graduates; about 46 percent of black college students were 25 years old or over; 3.5 times as many black students who were dependent on parental support, and almost twice as many black independent students, lived in households below the poverty level compared to all students; a fifth of black dependent college students lived in families with incomes over $20,000; approximately two-thirds of all black noncollegiate students had not completed high school; a fourth of black dependent postsecondary students came from families whose head had 1 year or more of college; and similar proportions of black independent and all independent noncollegiate students worked. (SW)

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Characteristics of Black Postsecondary Students

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Characteristics of Black Postsecondary Students

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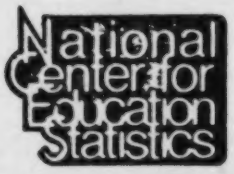

National Center for Education Statistics

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NCES 82-320

Foreword

This report is one of a series of five reports describing the socioeconomic characteristics of different groups of postsecondary students (both collegiate and noncollegiate). These are derived from recent analyses of Survey of Income and Education data, collected by the Bureau of the Census in Spring 1976. The other reports cover:

- Students with Language Backgrounds other than English
- Hispanic Students
- Women Students
- Students Twenty-five Years and Older

Technical Notes are available in a separate report which describes the survep methodology, and provides definitions and standard errors for selected items.

Susan Hill served as project officer of the contract to conduct secondary analyses of Survey of Income and Education data. Susan Hill and Alice Kroliczak coauthored the reports on the characteristics of postsecondary students. Joseph Froomkin, of Joseph Froomkin Inc., conducted the analyses of the data under contract to NCES.

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December 1981

How to Obtain More Information

The Technical Notes, single copies of this report, and the other series reports can be obtained free while supplies last by sending a request with a separate self-addressed mailing label for each report to: Statistical Information Office, National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue SW. (Presidential Building), Washington, D.C. 20202, telephone (301) 436-7900. Information about the Center's statistical program and a catalog of NCES publications may also be obtained from the Statistical Information Office.

Additional information about the series of reports on postsecondary students is available from Susan Hill, National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW. (Presidential Building), Washington, D.C. 20202, telephone (301) 436-7860.

HIGHLIGHTS

In Spring 1976, 25.4 million persons, or about 11.5 percent of the total population in the 50 States and the District of Columbia, were black. The black population was younger than the U.S. population in general.

In Spring of 1976, 1,233,000 blacks were enrolled in college. Black students were more likely to be enrolled at the undergraduate level compared to all college students.

In the traditional college-age group of 18-24 years, black high school graduates had lower college enrollment rates than all high school graduates.

About 46 percent of black college students were 25 years old or over, compared with 40 percent of all college students.

On a percentage basis, 3.5 times as many black students dependent on parental support, and almost twice as many black independent students, lived in households below the poverty level compared to all students.

A fifth of black dependent college students lived in families with incomes over $20,000.

Fewer black dependent college students worked during the year than did all dependent college students.

Larger proportions of black dependent and independent noncollegiate students lived in families that were in the lower income categories compared to all dependent and independent noncollegiate students.

Among independent noncollegiate students, the proportion who had no assets was more than twice as high among blacks as among all students.

Among blacks who were enrolled in noncollegiate schools (including adult basic education, Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, vocational schools, etc.), 6 out of 10 were over 21 years old. Approximately two-thirds of all black noncollegiate students had not completed high school.

Three-fourths of black students (living with their parents) were the first generation of their family to attend postsecondary education. Only a fourth of black dependent postsecondary students came from families whose head had one year or more of college.

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents a profile of the social and economic characteristics of black students, age 16 and over, enrolled in college or a noncollegiate postsecondary school. It is based upon data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau in the Spring of 1976 with the Survey of Income and Education (SIE).1/ There were half a million respondents to the survey, making the SIE the largest survey between the 1970 and 1980 Decennial Censuses. The large sample size of the SIE made possible the detailed analysis of the characteristics of black postsecondary students. More recent information of this type will not be available until the 1980 Census tapes are prepared.

The report begins with a general overview of characteristics of the black population in the United States in the mid-1970s to help develop a context for the analysis of blacks enrolled in postsecondary education. Chapter 2 discusses the characteristics of black collegiate students, and is followed by a chapter describing blacks age 16 and over in noncollegiate postsecondary schools. Each section gives separate information on students who are financially dependent and independent of their parents. In the case of financially dependent students, data also are presented concerning their families. Wherever relevant, data on black students are compared with data on all students in the United States. The final chapter concludes with an analysis of postsecondary enrollment by family size and the number of students enrolled per family. Standard errors have been calculated and differences between groups are cited in the text only if the difference was statistically significant at the .05 level.

The level of participation of black students in postsecondary education has concerned the Federal government because of its commitment to promote equality of educational opportunity. As of 1976, blacks were underrepresented among college graduates; only 5.5 percent of all black Americans, age 16 and over, had completed four or more years of college, compared with 13.2 percent of all Americans. However, college attendance was increasing among blacks--in 1976, there were more college students than college graduates in the black population.

1/For definition of terms and a description of the Survey of Income and Education, see the Technical Notes. It should be noted here that the SIE sampling frame was based primarily on the 1970 Census frame, unadjusted for an estimated 7.7 percent undercount of the black population.

CHAPTER 1

THE BLACK POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES: 1974-75

This section presents an overview of black Americans in 1974-75, as a context for examining black participation in postsecondary education. The data in this section were derived from U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Surveys.2/

- The black population, estimated at 24.4 million in 1975, constituted 11.5 percent of the total population in the United States. Roughly one-half of all blacks lived in the South. The Northeast and North Central regions accounted for 18 and 20 percent of all black residents, respectively. Fewer than one black in ten lived in the West.

- The black population is predominantly urban. Four-fifths of the black population lived in urban areas, with most black urban residents living in the central cities.

- Blacks were younger than the total population. The median age of blacks in 1975 was 23.4 years, compared with 29 years for the total population.

- Nearly 15 percent of all black families had incomes of less than $3,000 in 1974, contrasted with four percent of white families. Less than a fifth of black families had incomes of over $15,000, less than half the proportion of white families. Income of blacks living in the South were lower than those in the North and West.

- In 1975, over a third of black families were headed by women. One-half of black children under 18 lived with both parents.

- The educational disadvantage of many blacks was evident at the level of elementary and secondary school. By high school, one out of five black students had fallen one or more years behind the average grade level for their age.

- Educational attainment was lower for blacks than the average for the total population. A fourth of blacks age 22 to 24 had not graduated from high school, compared with 15 percent for the total population. The gap between blacks and the total population average increased with each age group. Among blacks 25 years and older, over half had not completed high school, compared to the total population average of a third.

2/U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 80, The Social and Economic Status of the Black Population in the United States: An Historical View, 1790-1978.

CHAPTER 2

ENROLLMENT IN COLLEGE

Participation Rates

Several factors, including population, age, and high school completion, must be considered in discussing college participation rates. Although blacks comprised 10 percent of all persons 16 years or older in the country and accounted for 10 percent of the total college enrollment in Spring 1976, their percentage of all high school graduates was 2 percentage points lower.

Item	Total number (in thousands)	Number of blacks (in thousands)	Blacks as percent of total number
Population 16 and over	154,661	15,965	10
High school graduates	98,101	7,372	8
Enrollment in college	11,955	1,223	10

This is a reflection of two demographic traits of the black population which have opposite effects on college enrollment. (1) Historically, lower proportions of black youth than youth in general have graduated from high school. In 1976, among young adults in the 18-24 age group, 67 percent of blacks had completed high school compared to 80 percent of the total population. As a result, blacks comprised a smaller percent of those persons in the population who had graduated from high school, the pool of potential college enrollees. (2) However, the age composition of the black population is younger than the population in general. Therefore, a higher percentage of blacks are in the younger age groups--which usually have higher rates of enrollment in colleges than older generations.

Looking at the distribution of high school graduates by age, about 30 percent of all black high school graduates (compared to about a fifth of all high school graduates) were in the traditional college-age group of 18-24 (table 1).

Table 1.--Percentage distribution of black and all high school graduates, by age group: 1976

Age group	Black graduates	All graduates
	Percentage distribution	
Total 16 years and over		
Number (in thousands).....	7,372	98,101
Percent	100	100
16 to 24 years	(31)	(22)
16-17	1	1
18-21	17	13
22-24	13	8
25 years and over	(69)	(77)
25-34	32	23
35-64	34	46
65 years and over	3	8

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

High school graduates in the younger age groups have higher rates of enrollment in college. Among black high school graduates 18-24 years of age, 30 percent were enrolled in college, compared to 33 percent for the total population. This indicates that blacks in the traditional college age (18-24) were enrolled in college at a lower rate than the total population. In the age groups over 24, however, a higher proportion of black high school graduates than all high school graduates were enrolled in college (table 2).

Table 2.--Percent of black and all high school graduates who were enrolled in college, by attendance status and age group: 1976

Age Group	Percent enrolled in college		
	Total	Full-time	Part-time
Black graduates			
18 to 24 years	30	24	6
25 to 34 years	15	5	10
35 to 64 years	8	2	6
All graduates			
18 to 24 years	33	26	7
25 to 34 years	12	4	8
35 to 64 years	4	1	3

Student Characteristics

A larger proportion of black college students was enrolled at the undergraduate level compared to all college students. Some 87 percent of black college students (1,060,000) were enrolled at the undergraduate level compared with 78 percent of all college students. The other 163,000 black college students were graduate students and persons who had completed 4 years of college who were enrolled in regular or adult education classes at a college (table 3).3/

3/The SIE did not collect information on type of college the student attended. A study using HEGIS data showed that black undergraduates were concentrated in 2-year colleges. In Fall 1976, 36 percent of black full-time undergraduates were enrolled in 2-year colleges as compared with 28 percent of all United States students. Michael A. Olivas, The Dilemma of Access: Minorities in Two-Year Colleges, Howard University Press, Washington, D.C., 1979, p. 26.

Table 3.—Black and total college enrollment, by level: 1976

Level of enrollment*	Black students		All students
	Number (in thousands)	Percent	Percent
Total	1,223	100	100
Undergraduate enrollment	1,060	87	78
Other enrollment	163	13	22

*The student may or may not be enrolled in a degree program.

Some 46 percent of black college students were 25 years old or over compared to 40 percent of all college students. There is a significant difference between these two proportions, in spite of the fact that the black population is younger than the total population, and a smaller proportion of black students were enrolled at the post-baccalaureate level (table 4).

Table 4.—Black and all college students, by age group: 1976

Age group	Black students	All students
	Percentage distribution	
Total	100	100
18 to 21 years	37	41
22 to 24 years	16	18
25 to 34 years	29	26
35 years and over	17	14

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Some 59 percent of all black students attended college full-time, about the same proportion as that of all college students (table 5).

Table 5.—Black and all college students, by attendance status: 1976

Enrollment	Attendance status		
	Total	Full-time	Part-time
	Percentage distribution		
Black students			
Total enrollment	100	59	41
Undergraduate	100	63	37
All students			
Total enrollment	100	58	42
Undergraduate	100	64	36

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

The proportion of women in the black college enrollment (about 50 percent) was 5 percent higher than the proportion of women in the total college enrollment. At the undergraduate level, the same number of black women and men were attending full-time (table 6).

Table 6.--Black college enrollment, by sex and level: 1976

Item	Women	Men
	Number (in thousands)	
Population age 16 and over	8,717	7,248
High school graduates	4,142	3,230
Enrolled in college	609	614
Undergraduate level	525	534
Full-time	334	334
Other	83	80

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

In summary, when compared with all college students, larger proportions of black college students were 25 years old or over, and black college students were enrolled to a greater extent at the undergraduate rather than post-baccalaureate level.

Financial Resources of Dependent Students and Their Families

The financial resources upon which a student can draw while attending school vary greatly depending upon whether the student is financially dependent upon his/her parents for support, or whether the student is independent of parental support, i.e., living on his/her own with a spouse and/or children. About half of black college students were no longer financially dependent on their parents--the same proportion as college students in general. This section provides greater detail on the financial resources of black dependent college students.

Larger proportions of black dependent college students were in the lower income categories compared to all dependent college students. A fifth of all black dependent college students lived in families where parental income was less than $5,000, in contrast to only 8 percent of all dependent college students. In addition, a quarter of black dependent college students were members of families with income between $5,000 and $10,000, double the proportion of all dependent college students in this income group (table 7). At the other end of the income spectrum 18 percent of all black dependent college students and 46 percent of all dependent college students lived in families with parental incomes over $20,000.

Table 7.--Dependent black and all dependent college students, by attendance status and income group: 1975

Parental income	Black students			All students		
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time
	Percentage distribution					
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Less than $5,000 ...	21	22	19	8	8	8
$5,000-$9,999	26	27	22	12	12	14
$10,000-$14,999	21	19	32	16	15	20
$15,000-$19,999	13	13	*	18	18	18
$20,000 and over ...	18	19	21	46	47	40
Number (in thousands)	616	510	106	6,073	5,064	1,009

*Percent not shown where estimate was less than 20,000 persons.
NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

When both income and the number of persons living in the student's family are taken into consideration, there is a statistically significant difference between the percentage of black dependent and all dependent college students who lived in families with incomes below the poverty level. The proportion of black dependent college students in poverty-level families was 3.5 times that of the total dependent college population (table 8).

Table 8.--Percent of dependent black and all dependent college students living in poverty: 1975

Poverty status	Black students	All students
Number of students (in thousands) ...	616	6,073
Percent of students in families below poverty level*	11	3

*For definition of the term poverty level, see the Technical Notes.

The relative lack of economic resources of families of black college students can be illustrated in another way. Only 7 percent of black dependent college students came from families with estimated assets of $40,000 or more in contrast with 39 percent for all dependent college students. A quarter of the black families had no assets (table 9).

Table 9.--Dependent black and all dependent college students, by size of family assets: 1975

Family assets	Black students	All students
	Percentage distribution	
Total	100	100
No assets	26	9
$1-$19,999	52	25
$20,000-$39,000	15	27
$40,000 and over	7	39
Total with information (in thousands)	537	5,248
No information* (in thousands)	79	825

*Includes nonresponse and those whose owner-occupied property and/or mortgage exceeded $100,000.

Fewer black dependent college students than all dependent college students worked while attending school. Among full-time undergraduate dependent students, 59 percent of blacks and 79 percent of all students worked during the school year. There was no statistically significant difference between the average yearly earnings of black dependent full-time undergraduate students who worked and all dependent full-time undergraduates who worked (table 10).

Table 10.—Earnings of dependent black, and all dependent full-time undergraduate students: 1975

Item	Black undergraduates	All undergraduates
Number of students (in thousands)	495	4,781
Percent with earnings	59	79
Mean yearly earnings of students who worked*	$1,415	$1,673

*The difference between the two means is not statistically significant at the .05 level.

Financial Resources of Independent Students

Larger proportions of black independent college students were in the lower income categories compared to all independent college students. About 44 percent of all black independent college students had individual or family incomes under $10,000 in contrast with 35 percent of all independent college students. Furthermore, 14 percent of black independent college students were living below the poverty level, compared with 8 percent of all independent college students. However, about a fourth of black independent college students had incomes over $20,000, the same proportion as for all independent college students (table 11).

Table 11.--Independent black and all independent college students, by individual/family income, and poverty status: 1975

Income	Black students	All students
	Percentage distribution	
Total	100	100
Less than $5,000	21	14
$5,000-$9,999	23	21
$10 000-$14,999	18	22
$15,000-$19,999	13	19
$20,000 and over	24	25
Total number (in thousands)...	607	5,882
Percent of students below poverty level	14	8

Among independent college students, the proportion who had no assets was twice as high among blacks as among all students.

Table 12.—Independent black and all independent college students, by individual/family assets: 1975

Assets	Black students	All students
	Percentage distribution	
Total	100	100
No assets	51	25
$1-$19,999	38	50
$20,000-$39,999	7	15
$40,000 and over	5	10
Total number (in thousands)	578	5,649
No information* (in thousands)	29	233

*Includes nonresponse and those whose owner-occupied property and/or mortgage exceeded $100,000.
NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Among blacks, about three-fourths of independent full-time undergraduate students worked, as was the case for all independent undergraduate students. It is not possible to provide any further reliable information on the earnings of independent full-time black undergraduate students because the sampled size for this group was too small (table 13).

Table 13.—Percent of independent black and all independent full-time undergraduate students with earnings: 1975

Item	Black undergraduates	All undergraduates
Number of students (in thousands)	174	1,252
Percent with earnings	76	79

CHAPTER 3

ENROLLMENT IN NONCOLLEGIATE SCHOOLS

Nearly 22 percent of all blacks, age 16 and over, who were attending a postsecondary school (collegiate or noncollegiate) in spring 1976, were enrolled in noncollegiate schools, such as vocational schools, adult education, CETA, correspondence, etc.

Blacks accounted for 12 percent of the total enrollment in noncollegiate schools, greater than their proportion of the total population (10 percent). Of the 346,000 persons of black origin enrolled in noncollegiate schools in the spring of 1976, one-third had not graduated from high school. In comparison, among all noncollegiate students, one in five had not completed high school.

Some 60 percent of black students in noncollegiate schools were over 24 years old, compared to 70 percent of all students. Among students who had not graduated from high school, a larger proportion of black students was in the lowest age category compared to all students. Among students who had graduated from high school, however, similar proportions of black and all noncollegiate students were in the lowest age category (table 14).

Table 14.--Black and all noncollegiate students, by completion of high school and age group: 1976

Age group	Black students			All students		
	Total	High school graduates	Did not complete high school	Total	High school graduates	Did not complete high school
	Percentage distribution					
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
16 to 24 years	40	39	46	30	30	30
25 to 34 years	30	34	23	31	33	24
35 years and over ..	30	27	30	39	37	46
Number (in thousands)	346	221	125	2,903	2,315	588

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Women accounted for 53 percent of the total black noncollegiate enrollment. However, women comprised a larger proportion of black part-time students in noncollegiate schools (table 15).

Table 15.--Black enrollment in noncollegiate schools, by attendance status and sex: 1976

Sex	Total		Full-time		Part-time	
	Number (in thousands)	Percent of total	Number (in thousands)	Percent of total	Number (in thousands)	Percent of total
Total	346	100	162	47	183	53
Women	185	53	77	48	107	58
Men	161	47	85	52	76	42

Financial Resources of Dependent Students and Their Families

Only 79,000 black noncollegiate students (23 percent of the total) were financially dependent on their parents. The rest were financially independent. Larger proportions of black dependent noncollegiate students were in the lower income categories compared to all dependent noncollegiate students. Some 65 percent of black dependent noncollegiate students lived in families where parental income was less than $10,000, contrasted with only 42 percent of all dependent noncollegiate students (table 16).

Table 16.--Dependent black and all dependent noncollegiate students, by attendance status and income group: 1975

Parental income	Black students			All students		
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time
	Percentage distribution					
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Less than $5,000	35	37	*	20	23	14
$5,000-$9,999	30	34	*	22	23	21
$10,000-$14,999	*	*	*	20	18	22
$15,000-$19,999	*	*	*	17	15	21
$20,000 and over	*	*	*	21	20	22
Number (in thousands) ..	79	62	17	529	322	207

*Percent not shown where estimate was less than 20,000 persons.

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

The relative lack of economic resources of families of black students can be illustrated in another way. About 48 percent of black dependent noncollegiate students came from families with no assets in contrast with only 21 percent of all dependent noncollegiate students (table 17).

Table 17.--Dependent black and all dependent noncollegiate students, by size of family assets: 1975

Family assets	Black students	All students
	Percentage distribution	
Total	100	100
No assets	48	21
$1-$19,999	42	34
$20,000-$39,999	*	22
$40,000 and over	*	23
Total with information (in thousands)	73	476
No information** (in thousands).....	6	53

*Percent not shown where estimate was less than 20,000 persons.
**Includes nonresponse and those whose owner-occupied property and/or mortgage exceeded $100,000.

Among black and all dependent noncollegiate students, there was no statistical difference in the proportions who worked while attending school. It is not possible to provide any further reliable information on the earnings of dependent black noncollegiate students because the sample size for this group was too small (table 18).

Table 18.-- Percent of dependent black and all dependent full-time noncollegiate students with earnings: 1975

Item	Black students	All students
Number of students (in thousands)	62	322
Percent with earnings	48	59

Financial Resources of Independent Students

A larger proportion of black independent noncollegiate students was in the lowest income category compared to all independent noncollegiate students. Slightly more than a third of all black independent noncollegiate students had individual or family incomes under $5,000, contrasted with less than a fifth of all independent noncollegiate students. Also, 32 percent of black independent noncollegiate students were living below the poverty level compared with only 12 percent of all independent noncollegiate students (table 19).

Table 19.--Independent black and all independent noncollegiate students, by individual/family income and poverty status: 1975

Income	Black students	All students
	Percentage distribution	
Total	100	100
Less than $5,000	37	16
$5,000-$9,999	19	19
$10,000-$14,999	19	25
$15,000-$19,999	12	18
$20,000 and over	12	23
Total number (in thousands)	267	2,374
Percent of students below poverty level	32	12

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Among independent noncollegiate students, the proportion who had no assets was more than twice as high among blacks as among all students (table 20).

Table 20.--Independent black and all independent noncollegiate students, by individual/family assets: 1975

Assets	Black students	All students
	Percentage distribution	
Total	100	100
No assets	65	30
$1-$19,999	26	40
$20,000-$39,999	*	15
$40,000 and over	*	15
Total number (in thousands)	250	2,211
No information** (in thousands).....	17	163

*Percent not shown where estimate was less than 20,000 persons.
**Includes nonresponse and those whose owner-occupied property and/or mortgage exceeded $100,000.

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Similar proportions of black independent and all independent noncollegiate students worked. It is not possible to provide any further reliable information on the earnings of independent black full-time noncollegiate students because the sample size for this group was too small (table 21).

Table 21. -- Percent of independent black and all independent full-time noncollegiate students with earnings: 1975

Item	Black students	All students
Number of students (in thousands)	100	568
Percent with earnings	65	71

CHAPTER 4

CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILIES WITH STUDENTS ENROLLED IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

About half of all black dependent students enrolled in postsecondary education (collegiate and noncollegiate) were members of families in which the head had not completed high school, compared with a fifth of all dependent postsecondary students. Only a fourth of the black dependent students came from families whose head had one year or more of college, in contrast with 46 percent of all dependent students (table 22).

Table 22.-- Dependent black and all dependent postsecondary students, by educational attainment of family head: 1976

Educational attainment of parental family head	Black students	All students
	Percentage distribution	
Total	100	100
Elementary school	28	11
Some high school	21	11
High school graduate	27	31
Some college	16	17
College graduate	8	29
Total number (in thousands)	695	6,602

NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

One in eleven black dependent students lived in a family where the only other member was a parent, and a third lived in families with six or more members. Among all dependent students, only 21 percent were members of families with six or more members. The distribution of black independent students by family size is fairly close to that of all independent students (table 23).

Table 23.-- Black and all postsecondary students, by family size and dependency status: 1976

Dependency status	Number of persons in family					
	Percentage distribution					
Dependent	Total	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six or more
Black students	100	9	22	20	17	32
All students	100	6	24	29	19	21
Independent	Total	One	Two	Three	Four or more	
Black students	100	21	23	22	34	
All students	100	22	27	18	33	

Despite lower average incomes, the proportion of black dependent students living in families with more than one student enrolled did not differ significantly from all dependent students in general. For both black dependent and all dependent students, one in three students lived in families with more than one student enrolled in postsecondary schools (table 24). However, a lower proportion of black independent students lived in families with more than one person enrolled in postsecondary education, compared to all students.

Table 24.--Black and all postsecondary students, by number of postsecondary students in family and dependency status: 1976

Dependency status	Number of postsecondary students in family			
	Total	One	Two	Three or more
	Percentage distribution			
Dependent				
Black students	100	65	26	10
All students	100	64	28	8
Independent				
Black students	100	84	14	*
All students	100	81	17	2

*Percent not shown where estimate was less than 20,000 persons.
NOTE: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

This report has examined the financial and educational resources of black postsecondary students in comparison with those of postsecondary students in general. Access and enrollment of blacks in postsecondary education were examined for a particular point in time—Spring 1976. In addition, it would be highly desirable to examine completion rates of blacks who enter postsecondary educational programs; unfortunately, the SIE data base does not provide the kinds of longitudinal data that would be needed to examine that aspect of educational equity.